

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/690,272

Examiner

Angel R. Estrada

Applicant(s)

MCCARTHY ET AL.

Art Unit

2831

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed on October 11, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-36.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 1205.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Popa on December 13, 2005.

IN THE CLAIMS

- a) In Claim 1 line 13, change "though" for --through--.
- b) In Claim 29, change the dependency from "18" to --28--.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-36 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The primary reasons for the indication of the allowability of claims 1-36 are:

Regarding claims 1-12, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest in combination with the other claimed limitations an apparatus comprises a locking device to lock said first cover to said first channel member, said locking device being releasable only from within said first channel member; and release means for releasing said locking device and accessible through an open end of said first channel member;

whereby said hollow first conduit section can be disassembled only by release of said locking device by access through an open end of said conduit section.

Regarding claims 13-36, the prior art does teach or fairly suggest in combination with the other claimed limitations an apparatus comprises a locking device seated on an exterior of said open side of said raceway with a portion thereof projecting into said interior of said raceway and being secured thereto, and said locking device having a second aperture therein; a latching bracket releasably mounted on said cover with a portion thereof projecting through said first aperture in said cover and said second aperture in said locking device; latching means within said conduit for releasably engaging said latching bracket and retaining said portion of said bracket in position projecting through said first and second apertures, thereby releasably securing said cover in place covering said open side of said raceway; and latch release means within said conduit and attached to said latching means and operable only through an end of said conduit, for releasing said latching means from engagement with said latching bracket such that said cover may be disengaged from said raceway member and access gained to said interior said conduit; whereby said interior of said conduit and any signalling or transmission means routed therethrough are accessible only through said open end of said conduit.

Theses limitations were found in claims 1-36, and are neither disclosed nor taught by the prior art of record, alone or in combination.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed on October 11, 2005 have been fully considered and are persuasive.

In response to the applicant's arguments the Examiner agrees that neither Mark et al (US 3,312,251) nor the cited prior art teach, disclose or suggest an apparatus comprising a locking device to lock said first cover to said first channel member and being releasable only from within said first channel; and release means for releasing said locking device and accessible through an open end of said first channel member; whereby said hollow first conduit section can be disassembled only by release of said locking device by access through an open end of said conduit.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Angel R. Estrada at telephone number (571) 272-1973. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:30 -5:00).

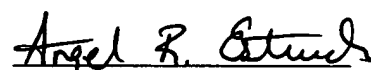
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on (571) 272-2800 Ext: 31. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

December 13, 2005



Angel R. Estrada
Patent Examiner
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